

Amendments to the Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A flexible ~~An~~ insulating material initially prepared as separate mixtures then combined at a ratio of 1 to 1 by volume for coating a tubular member, comprising:

a) an epoxy component mixture comprising an epoxy compound, acrylic resins and ceramic particles having thermal insulating properties; and

b) a curing component mixture comprising curing agents, and ceramic particles having thermal insulating properties.

7. (Currently amended) The insulating material as recited in claim 6, wherein said epoxy component mixture contains:

a) an epoxy resin comprising a diglycidyl ether of bis-phenol-A mixed with a C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl glycidyl ether,

b) an epoxy diacrylate resin ~~comprising a diglycidyl ether of a bis-phenol-A mixed with acrylate monomers,~~

c) a C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl glycidyl ether;

d) an acrylic resin ~~a polyacrylate copolymer;~~

e) a silane treated cenosphere;

f) a fiberglass; and

g) hydrophobic fumed silica.

8. (Currently amended) The insulating material as recited in claim 7, wherein said epoxy component mixture contains:

a) at least about 12% by weight of the epoxy resin;

b) at least about 12% by weight of the wetting agent;

c) at least about 4.5% by weight of the C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl glycidyl ether;

d) at least about 0.4% by weight of the acrylic resin ~~polyacrylate copolymer;~~

e) at least about 19% by weight of the silane treated Cenospheres;

f) at least about 1.5% by weight of fiberglass; and

- g) at least about 0.4% by weight of hydrophobic fumed silica.
9. (Withdrawn) The insulating material as recited in claim 7, wherein said curing component mixture contains:
- a) at least about 31% by weight of curing agent comprising a polyamide curing agent for epoxy systems;
 - b) at least about 2% by weight of curing agent comprising a polyether polyamine;
 - c) at least about 0.4% by weight of acrylic resin ~~polyacrylate copolymer~~;
 - d) at least about 2.5% by weight of zirconium oxide;
 - e) at least about 13% by weight of alumina silica spheres;
 - f) at least about 1.7% by weight of fiberglass; and
 - g) at least about 0.4% by weight of hydrophobic fumed silica.
10. (Withdrawn) A method of installing an insulated tubular member on a sea floor comprising:
- providing a reel containing the tubular member;
 - advancing the tubular member from the reel to a first heater member;
 - heating the tubular member;
 - straightening the tubular member in a hydraulic cylindrical press;
 - monitoring the temperature of the tubular member;
 - heating the tubular member in a second heater member to a predetermined temperature;
 - advancing the tubular member to a retort member;
 - applying an insulation compound to the tubular member within said retort member, said insulation compound comprising: a) an epoxy component mixture comprising an epoxy compound, an acrylate monomer that is a precursor to an acrylic resin and a plurality of ceramic particles; and b) a curing component mixture comprising curing agents and ceramic particles;
 - curing said insulation compound about the tubular member;
 - laying the insulated tubular member on the sea floor.
11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of straightening includes:
- providing a first and a second laser;

- determining the tolerance of a section of the tubular member with the first laser and the second laser;

- adjusting a plurality of hydraulic rams located on said heater member in order to straighten the tubular member to a predetermined straightness as determined by the first and second laser.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein the retort member comprises a first halve mold pivotally connected to a second half mold and wherein the step of applying the insulation compound comprises:

- coating the mold halves with a permanent mold release agent for allowing the release of the tubular member;
- injecting the insulation compound into the mold halves under a pressure;
- allowing the insulation compound to cure;
- opening the mold halves;
- releasing the insulated tubular member from the mold halves.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of applying the insulation compound comprises:

- measuring a predetermined amount of epoxy component mixture and measuring a predetermined amount of curing component mixture; mixing said predetermined amount of epoxy component mixture with said predetermined amount of curing component mixture; pumping the mixture into said retort.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the first mold half and the second mold half contain a plurality of heating bands, and wherein the step of applying the insulation compound includes heating the first mold half and the second mold half when the epoxy component mixture and the curing component mixture is being injected into the mold halves.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 wherein after the step of curing said insulation compound, the method further comprises:

- sensing when the insulation compound has cured;

- sending a signal to a control panel;
- withdrawing the tubular member from the retort;
- advancing a second section of the tubular member to the retort.

16. (Withdrawn) A system for applying an insulation compound to a tubular member, said tubular member being contained on a reel, the system comprising:

- a first heater means for heating the tubular member;
- a pipe straightener for straightening the tubular member;
- a retort means for containing a section of the tubular member and heating the section of the tubular member;
- a first vessel containing an epoxy compound, said first vessel being fluidly connected to a pump means for pumping the epoxy compound to the retort means;
- a second vessel containing a curing agent compound, said second vessel being fluidly connected to said pump means;
- control means, operatively connected to the retort means, for injecting the epoxy compound and the curing agent compound into the retort means and generating a signal once a predetermined temperature level is reached;
- advancing means, operatively connected to the retort means, for advancing the tubular member from the retort means in response to the generated signal.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16 wherein the retort means comprises a first half mold and a second half mold pivotally hinged to said first half mold.

18. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 further comprising:

- laser means for determining the straightness of the tubular member, and producing a signal indicative of the straightness;
- second heater means, operatively associated with the laser means, for heating the tubular means in response to the laser means signal.

19. (Cancelled)